

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ALNWICK
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1946 is again in the nature of a brief interim report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The Area of the District remains the same at 93,000 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 3,748: This figure is less than that for 1945, as temporary dwellings in the form of rateable summer huts were then included.

The Rateable Value is £52,872.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £212.

The population is estimated at 11,700 and this figure is taken as a basis in calculating the birth and death rates.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth Rate:- The number of births - corrected for inward and outward transfers - was 216 of which 111 were males and 105 females. Seven of these were still births and fifteen were illegitimate.

Birth Rate 1946	-	18.5	per	thousand	per	annum.
"	"	1945	-	15.8	"	"
"	"	1944	-	17.5	"	"

The Birth Rate for England and Wales 1946 - 19.6 per thousand per annum.

The Death Rate:- The number of deaths - corrected for inward and outward transfers - was 136 of which 77 were males and 39 females.

Death Rate 1946	-	11.6	per	thousand	per	annum.
"	"	1945	-	12.2	"	"
"	"	1944	-	11.9	"	"

The Death Rate for England and Wales 1946 - 11.5 per thousand per annum.

Infantile Deaths:- The number of deaths in infants under one year of age numbered 9, of which one was illegitimate.

Infantile Death Rate 1946	-	41.6	per	thousand	births.
"	"	1945	-	33.9	"
"	"	1944	-	49.8	"

Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales 1946 - 43 per thousand births.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Heart Disease.....	35	Bronchitis.....	1
Other Circulatory Diseases..	24	Pneumonia.....	5
Cancer.....	18	Other Respiratory Diseases..	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	5	Diabetes.....	1
Other Tubercular Diseases..	1	Ulcers.....	2
Infantile Diarrhoea.....	1	Other Digestive Diseases....	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	1	Nephritis.....	5
Premature Birth.....	4	Suicide.....	2
All other causes.....	26		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of Infectious Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis - notified during the year was 67 as follows:-

Measles.....	49	Acute Anterior Polimyelitis..	3
Diphtheria.....	3	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis....	1
Scarlet Fever.....	6	Chicken-pox.....	1
Whooping Cough.....	2	Erysipelas.....	1
Lobar Pneumonia.....	1		

One of the cases of Diphtheria was previously immunised.

Six of the cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Alnwick Fever Hospital and two were admitted to the Walkergate Fever Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1946 immunisation was carried out in 138 cases:-

Under 5 years of age.....	124.
Between 5 and 14 years.....	14.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ten cases of Pulmonary and seven cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The number of inhabited houses supplied from public mains - 2,371.
 " " " " " served " " " -

- (1) With water laid direct to houses - 1,834.
- (2) By Standpipes..... 537.

Quantity of Water. During the summer months partial drought conditions prevailed and all systems were taxed to their utmost capacity in July and August. The storage in all the reservoirs was very low and the yield of the various sources well below normal, resulting in shortages and intermittent supplies at Craster, Dunstan, Glanton, Birling and Warkworth Station. Earlier in the year shortage was experienced in the Bondicar and Newburgh area due to defects in old pipes.

Quality of Water. As noted in last year's report, chlorination of the Hauxley and Togston sources at Sturton Grange was not sanctioned by the Ministry of Health. The Alnmouth supply continues to be chlorinated, and the Felton and District source treated for the removal of iron.

General. Work was started in November on the 3" cast iron main extension to Cowslip Hill, Felton. The Council received the Northumberland County Council water supplies Report covering the whole of the County and in December resolved to

approve the report in principle. Messrs. D. Balfour & Sons, Consulting Engineers, have under consideration proposals for improving the supplies to the whole of the Council's area, excluding Embleton and District for which part Mr. U. Alexander, Consulting Engineer has prepared a scheme which is now before the Ministry of Health.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND SEWERAGE.

No new works were carried out during the year. Messrs. D. Balfour & Sons have submitted their report for the improvement and/or provision of systems of sewers and/or sewage disposal works for the following places:

1. Acklington and Togston.
2. Radcliffe, High and Low Hauxley.
3. Embleton, Christon Bank, Newton-by-the-Sea.
4. Shilbottle.
5. Glanton.
6. Eglington.
7. Craster and Dunstan.
8. Newton-on-the-Moor.
9. Longhoughton and Boulmer.
10. Lesbury and Bilton.
11. Warkworth.
12. Alnmouth.

In May the Council resolved to offer grants under the Public Health Act, 1936 Section 47(4) in respect of conversions to the water carriage system.

SCAVENGING.

Scavenging schemes were operated in 13 Parishes.

(Signed) B. TREVOR-ROPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

